

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT C.L. SULZBERGER OP-ED COLUMN THE
NEW YORK TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 HEADED "PRESIDENT
GISCARD'S MIDDLE EAST BET."

2. PARIS--FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING IS CONVINCED
THAT 1977 MUST BE THE YEAR IN WHICH PEACE IS AT LAST
ESTABLISHED IN THE MIDDLE EAST; THAT THERE CAN BE NO
ADVANTAGE TO ANY PARTY IN POSTPONING A SETTLEMENT UNTIL
LATER; AND THAT, APART FROM THE NATIONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED
IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE, THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD
BENEFIT.

3. "EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO MAKE 1977 THE YEAR OF
MIDDLE EAST PEACE," HE TOLD ME IN A RECENT CONVERSATION.
"AND IT IS POSSIBLE, I AM CONVINCED. ALL OF US--

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CERTAINLY IN THE WESTERN WORLD AND ALSO AMONG THE ARAB
STATES AND ISRAEL--ARE DEEPLY AND DIRECTLY CONCERNED.
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER
TO MAKE PEACE LATER.

4. "WE SHOULD EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE ROADS THAT MIGHT

LEAD TO PEACE IN 1977. MONTHS AGO I TOLD HENRY KISSINGER THAT 1976 WOULD NOT BE THE YEAR OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT THAT 1977 WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE.

5. "THE UNHAPPY LEBANESE CONFLICT HAS NOW FINISHED-- CONTRIBUTING A STABILIZING ELEMENT. IT PUT AN END TO THE INTERNAL CHAOS IN LEBANON AND TO THE BITTER DISPUTE BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT. THE ARAB WORLD HAS SHIFTED OPINIONS. THE EXTREMIST POSITION IS WEAKENED. SAUDI ARABIA IS NOW PLAYING A VERY POSITIVE ROLE.

6. "I AM TRULY HOPEFUL THAT IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, KEEPING IN MIND THAT 1977 IS THE BEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND TIME, WE CAN SUCCEED."

7. FRANCE'S CHIEF OF STATE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF RISING FUEL PRICES IN EUROPE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE OPEC OIL CARTEL. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE--AS SOME OBSERVERS DO--THAT OPEC IS CRUMBLING AS AN ORGANIZATION. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT SPLIT IN ITS ATTITUDES HAS PRODUCED A DOUBLE PETROLEUM PRICE LEVEL, HE THINKS THE CONSEQUENT RATE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT NEW SURCHARGE ON WEST EUROPE, ESPECIALLY FRANCE AND FEDERAL GERMANY.

8. A GOOD DEAL OF OUR TALK RELATED IN ONE OR ANOTHER WAY TO COMMUNISM IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS. MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING SEEMS OPTIMISTIC THAT YUGOSLAVIA (WHICH HE HAS JUST VISITED) WILL MANAGE TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF ACTION AFTER THE DEATH OF 84-YEAR-OLD MARSHAL TITO.

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9. SINCE WHAT IS NOW CALLED "EURO-COMMUNISM" WAS BORN IN BELGRADE 29 YEARS AGO WHEN TITO SEVERED TIES WITH MOSCOW, REBUFFING ALL SOVIET BLOC THREATS, DISCUSSION OF MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING'S VISIT LED NATURALLY TO ANALYSIS OF SIMILAR NATIONALIST COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS.

10. HE DOESN'T SEEM TO ACCEPT PERSONALLY THE WORD "EUROCOMMUNISM," WHICH HE APPEARS TO THINK IS LOOSELY AND CARELESSLY USED. THUS, IN SOME COUNTRIES (AND ONE MUST INFER THAT HE INCLUDES FRANCE) IT IS HIS BELIEF THAT PUBLICIZED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOCAL PARTY VIEWS AND SOVIET POLICY REPRESENT SIMPLE TACTICAL CHANGES IN SEARCH OF POLITICAL SUCCESS.

11. FOR HIM, SUCH TACTICS DON'T REPRESENT ANY GENUINE NEW IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. YET HE DOES APPARENTLY THINK THERE MIGHT BE A TRUE "ITALIAN" COMMUNISM--IN THAT

COUNTRY--RATHER THAN A BROADER "EUROPEAN" FORM.

12. THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF BEING FUNDAMENTALLY ADAPTED TO A WEST EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY--ALTHOUGH EVEN IN THIS RESPECT, WERE THEY TO GAIN OFFICIAL POWER IN ROME, THAT FACT MIGHT CONTRADICT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS HOMOGENEOUS ARRANGEMENTS IN WHICH THEY COULDN'T PLAY A ROLE.

13. OF COURSE, THE GREATEST COMMUNIST "HERESY" FROM THE STANDPOINT OF MOSCOW, WHERE LENINISM WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED, IS THAT OF CHINA. FRANCE SEEMS PERSUADED THAT DESPITE THE SHIFTS IN THE GUIDING PERSONNEL OF THE PEKING REGIME, IT WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ITS BASIC FOREIGN POLICY LINE. THIS MEANS CONTINUING THE BREAK WITH MOSCOW AND MAINTAINING RELATIVELY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

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14. IN TERMS OF WESTERN EUROPE, PARIS IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN ITS TWO PRINCIPAL E.E.C. PARTNERS, WEST GERMANY AND BRITAIN. MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE GERMANS HAVE A SPLENDID ORGANIZATION WITH AN ACTIVE AND WELL-RUN INDUSTRY.

15. MOREOVER, THE WEST GERMAN ECONOMY AT THIS MOMENT IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PLACED TO FURNISH CURRENT INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. BUT HE THINKS FRANCE'S POSITION IN THIS SENSE WILL IMPROVE WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD.

16. THE BRITISH PROBLEM IS COMPLEX. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T SEEM TO FEAR ANY IMMINENT DISINTEGRATION DESPITE BRITISH ENGULFMENT IN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. FRIENDLY NATIONS LIKE THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY AND FRANCE ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO HELP.

17. ONE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY IS TO CLEAR UP THE MENACE OF THE EXISTING STERLING BALANCE SITUATION. ALMOST SIX YEARS AGO, MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING, AS FINANCE MINISTER, WARNED THE THEN TORY GOVERNMENT THAT THIS WAS INEVITABLY BOUND TO CAUSE GRAVE TROUBLE. (END TEXT)

ROBINSON

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